

days after enactment of this Act, conduct a study on the appellate process for immigration appeals.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall consider the possibility of consolidating all appeals from the Board of Immigration Appeals and habeas corpus petitions in immigration cases into 1 United States Court of Appeals, by—

(1) consolidating all such appeals into an existing circuit court, such as the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit;

(2) consolidating all such appeals into a centralized appellate court consisting of active circuit court judges temporarily assigned from the various circuits, in a manner similar to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals; or

(3) implementing a mechanism by which a panel of active circuit court judges shall have the authority to reassess such appeals from circuits with relatively high caseloads to circuits with relatively low caseloads.

(c) FACTORS TO CONSIDER.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary, and the Judicial Conference of the United States, shall consider—

(1) the resources needed for each alternative, including judges, attorneys and other support staff, case management techniques including technological requirements, physical infrastructure, and other procedural and logistical issues as appropriate;

(2) the impact of each plan on various circuits, including their caseload in general and caseload per panel;

(3) the possibility of utilizing case management techniques to reduce the impact of any consolidation option, such as requiring certificates of reviewability, similar to procedures for habeas and existing summary dismissal procedures in local rules of the courts of appeals;

(4) the effect of reforms in this Act on the ability of the circuit courts to adjudicate such appeals;

(5) potential impact, if any, on litigants; and

(6) other reforms to improve adjudication of immigration matters, including appellate review of motions to reopen and reconsider, and attorney fee awards with respect to review of final orders of removal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to morning business and the following Senators on our side be recognized for the time amounts that I will give, alternating with Republican Senators on the other side if they so request, limited to 10 minutes. On the Democratic side the order would be: Senator BYRD for 15 minutes, Senator KERRY for 10 minutes, Senator BOXER for 5 minutes, Senator MURRAY for 10 minutes, Senator CONRAD for 5 minutes, Senator DODD for 10 minutes, Senator BROWN for 5 minutes, Senator LANDRIEU for 5 minutes, Senator LEVIN for 5 minutes, and Senator DURBIN for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Reserving the right to object. I asked for 20 minutes. How do I fit into that?

Mrs. MURRAY. The unanimous consent would allow for every other Senator to be from that side, at your discretion. I did limit it to 10 minutes and I will be happy to amend the unanimous consent for Senator GRASSLEY for 15 minutes following Senator BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

The Senator will suspend. The Senate is awaiting the comments from the senior Senator from West Virginia. Will those Senators having conversations retire from the Chamber.

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, Congress approved legislation that would have changed the course of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. I say occupation because, frankly, that is what this is. Our troops won the battle they were sent to fight. The dictator Saddam Hussein is deposed and executed. His rotten government is no more, replaced with a democratically elected Parliament, President, and Prime Minister. We all are cheered at the skill of our soldiers.

But, sadly, this President has not done justice by our brave troops. The dreadful management of this occupation has resulted in chaos. Iraq is at war with itself and our troops are caught in the middle. That is why this Congress established a new direction for bringing our troops home from this misbegotten occupation. The bill the President vetoed would have refocused our military, not on the civil war in Iraq but, rather, on Osama bin Laden and his base of operations. It is time for the President to take off his blinders and uncover his ears. White House obstinacy cannot continue to drive our military plans in Iraq.

With this supplemental funding legislation we begin to shift the responsibility for Iraq's future off the shoulders of our military, and onto the shoulders of the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people. The White House wanted a blank check for the President's mangled occupation of Iraq. We are not going to sign on that dotted line—not now, not ever. The legislation that is before the Senate today is a step toward that goal. It is not a giant leap, but it is progress. And it is only a first step. In a few weeks, this Senate is expected to focus on the Defense Department authorization bill. I shall press for a vote on the proposal Senator CLINTON and I have outlined in the authorization for the Iraq war and to give Congress a chance, just a chance, to decide whether the so-called new mission in Iraq should continue. If this mission is so critical, then let the administration make its case and let the people's elected Representatives—that is us—let the people's elected Representatives vote.

In July we will turn our attention to the Pentagon's fiscal 2008 funding request, and in September we will consider the \$145 billion war funding request for the next fiscal year. Each of these bills is an opportunity to shape the future course of the mission in Iraq. Clearly, Congress is not turning from the debate on Iraq. On the contrary, we are just beginning this debate.

We have all committed to protecting our men and women in uniform. This legislation provides the funding to do just that. We ensure \$3 billion for the purchase of mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles. The 2,000 additional advanced armored vehicles that will be built with these funds will help to save the lives of American soldiers and American marines as they travel the lonely streets of Baghdad—the lonely streets of Iraq.

If our soldiers are injured in battle, this legislation ensures they will receive high-quality health care when they come home. The fiasco at Walter Reed should be seared into our national consciousness. That is why this legislation provides \$4.8 billion to ensure that troops and veterans receive the health care they have earned with their service.

A few weeks ago, we watched Kansas families try to put their lives back together after deadly tornadoes ripped through their homes. The Kansas Governor pointed out that her State's National Guard equipment was parked in Iraq and not at home, slowing cleanup and recovery efforts. Other States faced the potential for the exact same problem. This supplemental bill provides \$1 billion—that is 1 dollar for every minute since Jesus Christ was born—\$1 billion for the National Guard and reserve to replace the trucks and heavy equipment that Guard units have been directed to leave in Iraq.

Again today President Bush warned of terrorist attacks on American soil. He talks a great deal about the threats of such attacks, but very seldom does he provide resources to protect the country. If the President's warnings are accurate, the \$1 billion contained in this bill should help to save lives.

We include funds for port security and for mass transit security, for explosive detection equipment at airports, and for several initiatives in the 9/11 bill that recently passed the Senate, including a more aggressive screening of cargo on passenger airlines. We will not—no, we will not—close our eyes to the huge gaps in our protections at home.

We also work to heal the devastated communities still struggling to recover from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. To this day, mangled trash heaps stand where homes and families once lived. This White House, the Bush White House, sends billions of dollars to rebuild Baghdad but ignores the overwhelming needs in New Orleans, Slidell, Biloxi, and so many other places at home.